

## The Mental States of Fierce Love and Larger Pain

You must have great faith  
to perform small acts. From  
your cold room, along-  
side those of your  
sisters and brothers, you

go forth to spend hours with  
bureaucrats, helping there-

by a gravely poor man  
get a tankful of oil.

All set  
till the next one.

You lose your faith  
after much of this and  
keep on

through reflex.  
Or lose and deepen  
your faith at once. No

use speaking of all this human  
quanta to others, and your co-  
religionists just know.

There are days to hate God  
and yourself, lashing both,

despising, too, the coy impotence  
of many served.

But not the work. God's work and if  
He doesn't like it he can go f...

Your mother and father are quizzically  
proud but would prefer a baby grand-  
daughter to dress in softest pinks and  
carry about the linear development.

